

*The*



*Bulletin*

March 2003 • Adar 5763

**KJA**

1575 Annie Street  
Daly City, Ca 94015

**Happy Pessah**

*David Ovadia*

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**NOTE:**

Please address your articles or information for publishing to the Editors



## President's Message

On behalf of the KJA Board, I would like to introduce the Bulletin again. We will try to make the effort to publish the Bulletin two to three times a year. Special thanks go to Oreett and Shawn for taking the initiative to republish the Bulletin and to Debbie for her editorial efforts.

We have been actively recruiting the younger generation to participate and get more involved in our organization. I am pleased to announce the following new members who will be joining the board. From the younger generation, Oreett Lichaa, Debbie Farag, Joe D. Moussa, Sam Saddik, and Gina Saddik. In addition, we have the pleasure of including Joe Ovadia as one of our new Board members. On behalf of the entire community, I would like to express my appreciation and thank the following outgoing Board members: Elie Nounou, Fortune Lichaa, Elie Kheder, Joe Rasson, and Roger Vaede.

The new Board will be meeting over the next couple of months to review and establish new goals and objectives for the coming year. I would like to recap the major events of the past year.

1. In April of 2002, the KJA hosted its first organized Passover Seder, which was attended by over 250 people. A lot of effort from the entire community was put forth to make this a very memorable event. From France, we had Mireille Cohen and Vladimir Eli, who captured the Seder on film, as well as interviews with several members of the community. In addition, the Seder was covered by KRON 4 on the 11:00PM news.
2. The publication of "As it is Written: The Brief Case for Karaism" by Shawn Lichaa.
3. Joe Wahed, our vice president, has been actively working with JIMENA and many other Jewish organizations. He has traveled extensively and made numerous speeches on our behalf. Please see his article in this edition of the Bulletin.
4. The active participation and involvement of many members to reprint our daily prayer book and the Shabbat Prayers with large fonts and English translations. This was an enormous task that was headed up by Elie Moussa from the San Francisco Bay Area and Alan Ovadia from the Los Angeles Area.
5. Several young and old hazanim continued their dedication in leading the Saturday prayers. I would like to acknowledge their efforts and commitment.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank every member of our community who has helped and supported the KJA over the past several years, and we ask you for your ideas, talents, energies, and continued support towards meeting our goals and objectives in the upcoming year(s). May G-d bless you.

# Happy Passover!



## The Lessons of Purim

By Shawn Lichaa

The story of Purim has intrigued both scholar and lay person alike. Why should it not? Here is a story of the Jews in Persia and their plight to survive an evil plot designed to bring about their execution. Through a series of apparent coincidences the tables are turned and the Jews survive. In an ironic twist, the plotter of their destruction, Haman, is in turn hanged.

At first glance, this story sounds just like most of the other Jewish holidays we commemorate: They tried to kill us, we won, let's eat. The remarkable part of the story of Purim, however, is that God is never mentioned once. In fact, it is the only book in the Bible in which God is not mentioned. This oddity has puzzled students of the Bible for centuries.

The key to understanding the story of Purim is in its subtleties. God's absence in the story only serves to underscore his presence in our everyday lives. Consider the following points: In his quest to find a new wife from all of the women of Shushan, King Ahasueros chooses Esther, a Jew; At a later point, the King elevates Haman to a position of power; Haman, not knowing Esther was a Jew, subsequently schemes to kill the Jews for following their religion and disobeying Haman's orders; Mordechai, Esther's cousin, informs Esther of Haman's sinister plot and advises her to act promptly; Through a series of crafty maneuvers, Esther uses her relationship with the King to set the Jews free from the evil decree pronounced upon them; In the same manner that he set out to kill the Jews, Haman's life comes to an end at the gallows.

How is it that Esther was chosen to be the King's new wife so that she would be in a position to help save her people some time down the road? The answer is that this is the work of God. God constantly works behind the scenes. Sometimes we understand the purpose of God's will at the moment an event occurs, while at other times it takes years to understand God's motives. This, above all, may be the ultimate message of Purim.

## JIMENA-A GRASS ROOTS JEWISH ORGANIZATION

Most of you reading this Karaite Bulletin lived in Egypt, or are descendants of an Egyptian Jewish family. Jews lived in Egypt for well over 3,000 years, but in the seventh century, Arab armies from Arabia invaded and conquered all the Middle East and North Africa. The subsequent 14 centuries were often very difficult for Jews living under Arab/Islamic rule. But between 1948 and 1970, nearly one million Jews were expelled despite the fact that they were the region's oldest indigenous ethnic group. Today, there are practically no Jews left in the Arab world.

### What is our story?

In mid-2001, I was invited by the Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco to bring together Jews who are indigenous to the Arab world. This effort culminated in the formation of JIMENA, or, "Jews Indigenous to the Middle East and North Africa."

JIMENA's Goals. The goals of JIMENA are straightforward:

- tell the world the full story of our expulsion;
- demand justice and compensation for assets left behind;
- play an integral part in the peace process of the Middle East;
- assume a bigger role in S.F.'s Jewish organizations.
- preserve our heritage and culture

### Background.

As you may know, in 1948 the Arab League and the Mufti of Jerusalem attacked the newly formed state of Israel in order to destroy it. Several Arab leaders warned that if Israel were created, all 900,000 Jews living in the Arab world would be "in great danger". This threat was indeed carried out. Hundreds of Jews in Baghdad, Cairo, Tripoli, Aden and Damascus were massacred, women were raped, synagogues were desecrated, Torah scrolls were burned, and property was looted. This was followed by a massive and brutal expulsion of Jews. By any measure, this was a crime against humanity. Yet, many in the world talk only about the Palestinian refugees, and forget our plight altogether.

We lost our homes, financial assets, personal belongings, and our livelihood. Today, less than 7,000 Jews remain in the Arab world out of the one million who had lived there in 1948. A whole culture was decimated

and a rich, 3,000 year-old heritage is gone. Yet, many expelled Jews went to live in Israel and helped forge a strong and democratic country. More than half of Israel's Jewish population is originally from an Arab country.

#### Accomplishments.

In less than two years since JIMENA's inception, its members have successfully told their stories at many synagogues, at rallies supporting Israel, at churches, and at other institutions. Everywhere we went, we received heart-warming support. We were also invited to be part of a Speaker's Bureau of the David Project (headquartered in Boston), which sent some of us across America to tell our story to Jewish students (from Hillel and Students United for Israel), at American university campuses, including, San Francisco State, Harvard, Yale, Boston University, Columbia, Tufts, UCLA, George Washington, and many more.

#### Conference in S.F. --- Please Note!

On **Sunday, March 23**, JIMENA will hold a first-ever conference in San Francisco (12:30-5:30 at Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California St. at Webster). We are inviting well-known and knowledgeable authorities to tell the world community our story and to demand compensation and justice. The featured speakers are: Dr. Avi Beker, Secretary General, World Jewish Congress; Eric Benhamou, Chairman of the Board of Directors, 3Com Corporation; and Stan Urman, Executive Director, Center for Middle East Peace and Economic Cooperation. The Honorable Yossi Amrani, Consul General of Israel will be on hand as a special guest. Please mark this important date on your calendar and make every attempt to attend. General admission is \$25 and \$12 for students and seniors, and includes an afternoon snack, but please note that **no one will be turned away due to lack of funds.**

In conclusion, it's important to remember that we are the last generation of Jews who were born in the Arab world. We must make every effort to preserve our heritage; otherwise, we will only become "a shadow of history." Describe to your children your story of how you left Egypt and document it on video or in writing so that the memory will never die.

To learn more about your heritage, please visit our website:

**[www.Jimena-justice.org](http://www.Jimena-justice.org)**

Joseph Abdel Wahed

Co-Chairman, JIMENA

San Francisco, January 2003

## From the Board

The current Board members and officers have just completed a four-year term and are eager to continue their service to the community over the next four years. Joining them, as new Board members of the KJA are Joe D. Moussa, Joe Ovadia, Debbie Farag, Oreett Lichaa and Sam and Gina Saddik. The new members have taken their oath, and the Board will have formal elections in the next few months. In the following statements, the new members share the reasons why they wanted to join the Board and make a formal commitment to strengthening the KJA.

"As part of the first-generation of Karaites born in America, I can see how fragile our position is with respect to our ability to continue as a viable community. I appreciate how precious our background and history is, but with each generation, we get one step further removed from our religious and customary practices. I wanted to join the KJA Board because I wanted to better understand my roots and traditions and contribute to the effort of preserving and sharing them with present and future generations."

Debbie Farag

"KJA has come a long way from its origin a number of years ago from praying in homes to acquiring a place of worship. However, having a place of worship does not mean KJA is growing and, more importantly, addressing the needs of the community. The achievements made were quite remarkable given the difficulties we faced. Let's face it, we are dispersed and that dispersion creates many problems. We do not live in one small radius where culture and tradition can be carried on generation after generation so easily. The influences of a new land are great."

"I hope to understand more clearly the issues our community faces and work closely with existing and new board members to address those issues. It is important that everyone feels a part of the community and is communicated with so that growth and commitment will be realized. I encourage you to voice your thoughts, opinions, ideas and participate in one way or another."

Joe D. Moussa



“From the time that I was a child, KJA has been a big part of my life, including everything from temple services to holiday celebrations. Now that I am an adult in my own right, I want to get myself and others from the younger generation involved to a greater extent so that we don't lose the traditions of the KJA. I am honored to be a part of the Board and look forward to serving the community in this capacity.”

Oreett Lichaa

“I want to be a board member to improve the quality of life for the Karaites and accomplish the goals and objectives of the Board Members as well as the community. In addition, to strengthen our culture and heritage and bringing every one together for increased participation.”

Joe Ovadia

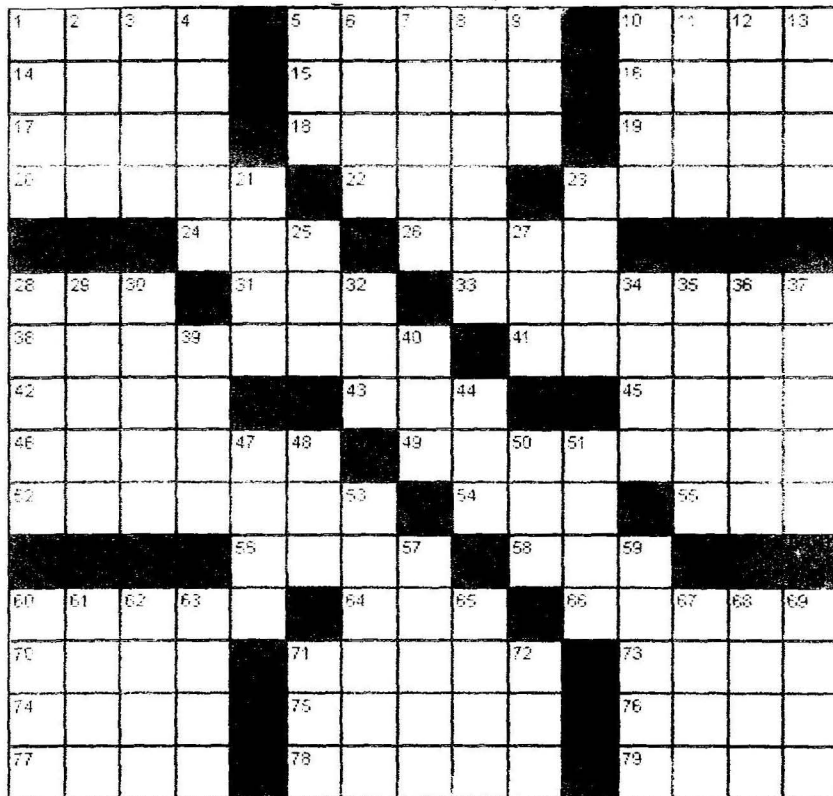
“After many conversations with each other and our friends regarding KJA and the future, we decided to join the board as a couple so that we are both equally involved and are both aware of what is happening in our community”

“With two children, it is our hope to help bring some type of an education program to our temple and community. We are concerned that our history as Karaite Jews will be lost in the years to come, hopefully we can preserve some of the stories, customs and traditions.”

Sam and Gina Saddik

We cannot achieve what we hope to accomplish within the confines of the Board alone. We will have many needs that will require the involvement of the community. We sincerely hope that you, the KJA community will be inspired by our decision to make a difference and will respond in full force when we call upon you for assistance ... and we will be calling!

# Jewish Crosswords



## Across

- 1 Jacob grabbed Esau's at birth (4)
- 5 Ishmael's mom (5)
- 10 Purim month (4)
- 14 Spanish philosopher (4)
- 15 Son of Gad (5)
- 16 Eighth day gift? (4)
- 17 Haman? (4)
- 18 Gaza \_ (5)
- 19 Eve's grandson (4)
- 20 Comic Bruce (5)
- 22 Speak (3)
- 23 Sound of Kristallnacht (5)
- 24 Ess (Eng) (3)
- 26 Owns biblically (4)
- 28 Canasta card (3)
- 31 Son of Gad (3)
- 33 Nazarete no no (7)
- 38 Spinning dreidels? (8)
- 41 David's weapons (6)
- 42 Khazars' homeland (4)
- 43 American Mossad? (3)
- 45 Solo for Bubbles (4)
- 46 Nachmonides (6)
- 49 Isaac to Reuben (8)
- 52 Conquerors of Israel (7)
- 54 Freud invention (3)
- 55 Her (3)
- 56 Father (Heb) (4)
- 58 Hamantasch (3)
- 60 K'Tonton's size (5)
- 64 Nizer org.? (3)
- 66 Instruments for David (5)
- 70 Zionist Halprin (4)
- 71 "The Art of Loving" author (5)
- 73 Jonah's escape? (4)
- 74 Mizrach location? (4)
- 75 Jewish chicken pate (5)
- 76 Competent (4)
- 77 Gabbai catch (4)
- 78 Rainbows (5)
- 79 Jonah milieu (4)

## Down

- 1 Allen film, Annie \_ (4)
- 2 Wiesel (4)
- 3 Orator (4)
- 4 "Bonanza" dad (5)
- 5 Owns (3)
- 6 Shaw and Shamsky (4)
- 7 Biblical weight (5)
- 8 Ritual honor (6)
- 9 Shiva clothes (3)
- 10 Issachar city (4)
- 11 "Jose Jimenez" comic (4)
- 12 Minor Prophet (4)
- 13 Comes before shin (4)
- 21 Writer Dayan (4)
- 23 Zim carrier (4)
- 25 Three: comb. form (3)
- 27 Torah breastplate (3)
- 28 Change for a NIS (5)
- 29 Batim in Spain (5)
- 30 Giant Dead Sea tribe (5)
- 32 Corp. (3)
- 34 Chant Torah (4)
- 35 Playing deck (5)
- 36 US Commodore Levy (5)
- 37 Hebrew letter (5)
- 39 "Rosemary's \_", Levin novel (4)
- 40 Job for Getz or Sedaka (3)
- 44 Exist (3)
- 47 Israeli neighbor (4)
- 48 Sofer need (3)
- 50 Stone or Bronze (3)
- 51 Ark builder (4)
- 53 Moabite mountains (6)
- 57 Angel of Death path (5)
- 59 Rabbi Abraham ben David (5)
- 60 Tu B' Shevat need (4)
- 61 Winter white (4)
- 62 Refuniks home (4)
- 63 Shamsky's team (4)
- 65 Ender (4)
- 67 Many colored (4)
- 68 " \_ of Settlement" (4)
- 69 Gait (4)
- 71 Florenz Zeigfeld's nickname (3)
- 72 Title for Golda (3)

# Announcements

Dreams do come true!

We are delighted to announce the birth of our son

Noah Michael

April 9, 2001

7 pounds 10 ounces

20 ¼ inches

Samuel and Gina Saddik

We welcome with love

Sophie Rebekah

October 16, 2002

6 pounds, 5 ounces

Proud parents

Samuel and Gina Saddik

And Big brother Noah

Ezra has a new hand to hold!

Gabriel Ari Moussa

Born on March 25, 2002

6:36p.m.

8 pounds, 2 ounces and 21 inches

Son of Joseph and Davina Moussa



We are delighted to announce the birth of our daughter

Rebekah Phoebe

December 21, 2001

7 pounds 4 ounces

20 inches

Paul and Jenny Coleman

Born on January 3, 2003, Dahlia Kraus Ovadya to Daniel and Tamara Ovadya, in Davis, California. She weighed 6 lbs. and 5 oz. and both she and her mother is in good health. The happy grandparents are Joseph and Kathi Wahed of San Francisco Ca. and Michael and Ilana Kraus of Boston, Mass. Mazal Tov to all and may Dahlia grow up in peace and prosperity.

## Messages

Special Announcement

Conference On Jews From Arab Countries

Date: Sunday March 23, 2003 Between 12.30 Pm And 5.30 Pm.

Place: Congregation Sherith Israel, 2266 California St. San Francisco

Co-Sponsored By The World Jewish Congress And Other Organizations. Speakers Will Tell The Story Of The Nearly One Million Jews Expelled From Arab Countries. Israeli Consul Will Be Special Guest. Master Of Ceremonies: Joseph Abdel Wahed.

Please Mark That Important Date On Your Calendar Come And Re-Connect With Our Pride And Rich Heritage

## **The Joke of the Rabbi And the Plane Design**

Bernie, a young Jewish boy, decided he wanted to be an aeronautical engineer and build airplanes. Over the years he studied hard, went to the best schools, and finally got his degree. It didn't take long before he gained a reputation as the finest aeronautical engineer in all the land, so he decided to start his own company to build jets.

His company was such a hit that the President of the United States called Bernie into his office. "Bernie," the President said, "Israel wants to commission your company to build an advanced jet fighter for their country. You have our approval--go out and design the best jet fighter ever made."

Needless to say, Bernie was tremendously excited at this prospect. The entire resources of his company went into building the most advanced jet fighter in history. Everything looked terrific on paper, but when they held the first test flight of the new jet, disaster struck. The wings couldn't take the strain--they broke clean off of the fuselage! (The test pilot parachuted to safety, thank G-d.)

Bernie was devastated; his company redesigned the jet fighter, but the same thing happened at the next test flight--the wings broke off again. Beside himself with great worry, Bernie went to his shul to pray, to ask G-d where he had gone wrong. The rabbi saw Bernie's sadness, and naturally asked him what the matter was. Bernie decided to pour his heart out to the rabbi.

After hearing the problem with the jet fighter, the rabbi put his hand on Bernie's shoulder and told him, "Listen, Bernie, I know how to solve your problem. All you have to do is drill a row of holes directly above and below where the wing meets the fuselage. If you do this, I absolutely guarantee the wings won't fall off."

Bernie just smiled and thanked the rabbi for his advice...but the more he thought about it, the more he realized he had nothing to lose. Maybe the rabbi had some holy insight. So Bernie did exactly what the rabbi told him to do. On the next design of the jet fighter, they drilled a row of holes directly above and below where the wings met the fuselage. And it worked! The next test flight went perfectly!

Brimming with joy, Bernie went to shul to tell the rabbi that his advice had worked. "Naturally," said the rabbi, "I never doubted it would."

"But Rabbi, how did you know that drilling the holes would prevent the wings from falling off?"

"Bernie," the rabbi intoned, "I'm an old man. I've lived for many, many years and I've celebrated Passover many, many times. And in all those years, not once--NOT ONCE--has the matzoh broken on the perforation!"



# Holidays 2003

Passover Eve  
 First day of Passover  
 Sevuot  
 Rosh Hashana  
 Yom Kippur Eve  
 Yom Kippur  
 Sukkot  
 Simhat Torah

Wednesday, April 16, 2003  
 Thursday, April 17, 2003  
 Sunday, June 8, 2003  
 Saturday, September 27, 2003  
 Sunday, Oct 5, 2003  
 Monday, Oct 6, 2003  
 Saturday, Oct 11, 2003  
 Saturday, Oct 18, 2003



Jewish Crosswords

H	E	E	L		H	A	G	A	R		A	D	A	R
A	L	B	O		A	R	E	L	I		N	A	M	E
L	I	A	R		S	T	R	I	P		E	N	O	S
L	E	N	N	Y		S	A	Y		S	M	A	S	H
				E	A	T		H	A	T	H			
A	C	E		E	R	I		H	A	I	R	C	U	T
G	A	M	B	L	I	N	G		S	P	E	A	R	S
A	S	I	A			C	I	A			A	R	I	A
R	A	M	B	A	N		G	R	A	N	D	D	A	D
A	S	S	Y	R	I	A		E	G	O		S	H	E
				A	B	B	A		E	A	R			
T	H	U	M	B		A	B	A		H	A	R	P	S
R	O	S	E		F	R	O	M	M		B	O	A	T
E	A	S	T		L	I	V	E	R		A	B	L	E
E	R	R	S		O	M	E	N	S		D	E	E	P



*David Ovadia*